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Panel on Billy won't call Carter now

Washington (AP)—A special Senate subcommittee looking into the affairs of President Carter's brother, Billy, agreed yesterday not to question the president, at least for the time being.

Senator Birch Bayh (D, Ind.), the chairman, said the panel had decided instead that staff investigators would submit questions to White House lawyers, who would obtain the requested information from the president and others.

The answers to the questions will not be given under oath.

Senator Strom Thurmond (R, S.C.), vice chairman of the subcommittee, told reporters, "I don't think there was any dissent" over the decision not to question President Carter directly.

But both Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Bayh indicated that the panel might eventually question the president directly.

Special counsel Philip Tone said the panel's inquiries would be factual questions designed to "fill in gaps in the record." "I would say there would be no questions of earthshaking consequence," he added.

He said the answers would be made public after the subcommittee had studied them.

Mr. Bayh also announced that the subcommittee's report, due October 4, would be an interim account, leaving open the possibility of a fuller report later if the panel decided one was needed.

The subcommittee also released an edited transcript of closed-door testimony given September 9 by Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of central intelligence, in which he said the CIA was providing information to the Justice Department regarding money Billy Carter had received from the Libyans.

Admiral Turner was asked about testi-

mony by Joel Lisker, chief of the foreign agents registration unit of the Justice Department, that Mr. Carter's receipt of \$220,000 from the Libyans was still under investigation.

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D, Ariz.) asked Admiral Turner, "Are you furnishing additional information. Do you—does your agency have additional information in regard to this ongoing investigation that Mr. Lisker mentioned?"

"Yes," the CIA director replied. He said that the information was being turned over to the Justice Department, but that he could not discuss it even in a closed session because of the danger of disclosing intelligence sources.

Earlier, Mr. DeConcini, who is chairman of a separate subcommittee looking into possible links between Billy Carter and fugitive financier Robert Vesco, asked the Justice Department to reconsider its refusal to negotiate Mr. Vesco's return to the United States so he could testify before the panel.

Mr. Vesco fled the United States in 1972 after being charged with defrauding a mutual fund of more than \$200 million.

Mr. DeConcini and Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R, Utah) interviewed him this summer in the Bahamas, where he now lives. They said he told them he "orchestrated" Libya's \$220,000 loan to Billy Carter in order to embarrass the administration for not negotiating a settlement of his legal problems.

Mr. DeConcini asked the Justice Department to talk to Mr. Vesco's lawyers about terms for his appearance before the subcommittee in Washington.

Alan Parker, an assistant attorney general, said the department refused because such a move would involve "conditions which would immunize him, a fugitive from justice, from arrest."